

B O R O U G H O F S O U T H W O L D .

A N N U A L R E P O R T

ON THE

H E A L T H

OF THE

B O R O U G H


FOR THE

YEAR

1 9 5 1 .



Arthur C. Gee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.



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BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE YEAR 1951.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough
of Southwold.

Your Worship, Councillor Miss Foster and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the
Health of the Borough for the year 1951.

The health of the Borough has been satisfactory through-
out the year, apart from a somewhat higher incidence of whooping
cough and measles than during the previous year. These two
infections now represent the chief epidemiological problem amongst
the child population. Immunisation against diphtheria has
reduced the incidence of that disease to negligible proportions
and it is hoped that very shortly an equally effective prophylactic
against whooping cough will be available.

In this connection, a word of warning may be timely in
reminding parents that although diphtheria is rare nowadays, it has
not been banished for all time. If the immunisation of children
against diphtheria is not continued, there is good evidence to
show that it will soon re-appear in our midst.

Little comment is necessary on the year's vital
statistics, save to remind oneself that where comparatively small
numbers are involved too much attention should not be given to
"rates per 1,000". This is particularly applicable to the figures
shown herewith for the Infant Mortality Rate, which, when compared
with the comparative rate for England and Wales, appears to be
alarmingly high, whereas in fact only two such deaths occurred.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for your
co-operation during the year. I should also like to record my
appreciation of the help given me by the Town Clerk, the Sanitary
Inspector and other Officials of the Borough.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
LIVE BIRTHS. Legitimate	21	10	11
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>Southwold.</u>	<u>Comparative figures</u> <u>for England & Wales.</u>	
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1951.	8.6		15.5
Stillbirths.	Nil.		
Maternal Mortality.	Nil.		
Infantile Mortality. (Deaths of infants under one year of age.)			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	2	-	2
Infant Mortality Rate.	95.2 per 1,000 live births.		
	(Comparative Rate for England and Wales - 29.6)		

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths:-	45	22	23

Death Rate:-
per 1,000 estimated population - 18.4
(England and Wales 12.5)

Causes of Death:-

Heart Diseases	18
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6
Cancer	5
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1
Pneumonia	1
Others	<u>14</u>
	<u>45</u>

Comparative Table for the last Five Years.

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Population	2209	2397	2391	2443	2449	2441
Births	36	44	37	33	23	21
Birth Rate per 1,000	16.3	18.4	15.5	13.5	9.4	8.6
Deaths	33	47	39	48	49	45
Death Rate per 1,000	14.9	15.4	16.3	19.6	20.1	18.4
Infant deaths	1	-	1	2	-	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live Births	27.7	-	27.0	60.6	-	95.2

Infectious Diseases:-

During the year the following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified:-

Whooping cough	-	59
Pneumonia	-	13
Measles	-	24
Erysipelas	-	1

The responsibility for arranging for the hospital treatment of those infectious diseases which cannot be treated at home, now rests with the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

TUberculosis.

	<u>Males.</u>		<u>Females</u>		<u>Total.</u>
	<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>N. Pulm.</u>	<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>N. Pulm.</u>	
Number on Register at beginning of year	11	2	4	3	20
Number added to Register during year	2	1	3	1	7
Number removed from Register during year	3	1	-	-	4
Total on Register at end of year	10	2	7	4	23

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied the following figures showing the percentage of children immunised in the Borough this year, and during the two previous years. From these figures it will be seen that a steady fall in the proportion of children immunised is taking place. The co-operation of all parents is requested to stop the fall and to ensure that the child population is kept fully immunised against this disease.

<u>Under 5 years old.</u>			<u>All children under 15 years old.</u>		
<u>1951.</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949.</u>
45.1%	50.6%	53.4%	46.7%	58.0%	55.7%
Estimated pre-school population (0 - 4)				175	
Estimated school population (5 - 14)				<u>356</u>	531
No. of pre-school children immunised				79	
No. of school children immunised				<u>169</u>	248
pre-school children immunised					45.14
all children immunised					46.71
"Booster" injections 1951					22

Food Poisoning.

It is pleasing to be able to report once again that no cases of food poisoning have been reported in the Borough. In view of the fact that the Borough is a well patronised seaside resort, this is a particularly gratifying state of affairs for which the food handlers are to be congratulated.

In conclusion may I draw attention particularly to the Sanitary Inspector's Report which follows mine, as in it, your Sanitary Inspector has set out in some detail the variety of sanitary work which has been carried through within the Borough during the year.

ARTHUR C. GEE.

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1951.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough
of Southwold.

Your Worship, Councillor Miss Foster and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the sanitary conditions in the Borough for the year 1951.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is provided from the mains by the Southwold Water Company. The supply has been of high quality and sufficient for all requirements.

SEWERAGE.

Work commenced on the erection of two new pumping stations at South Green and North Road in April and October respectively. Considerable delays in the delivery of certain materials caused slow progress to be made and by the end of December, 1951, only 80% of the work on the South Green Station had been carried out.

The new pumps, which will be electrically operated, will replace the existing ejector pumps which are now obsolete.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The collection of house refuse is carried out by contract and as in previous years the contractor has worked with speed and efficiency.

The refuse is disposed of in the Corporation's incinerator. The condition of the incinerator is rapidly deteriorating and the question of repairs is being considered by the Council (December, 1951).

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

All homekilled meat continues to be supplied from the Area Abattoir at Beccles where it is inspected and classified.

The question regarding the conditions under which meat is delivered to Southwold and the condition of the meat itself, particularly during the summer, has been the subject of much discussion by the Council, and strong protest has been made to the Ministry of Food on the matter. Attention has also been drawn to the condition under which animals are presented for slaughter, are slaughtered and the carcasses dressed for delivery to the retail shops.

These unsatisfactory conditions can, to a large extent, be attributed to the following:-

- (a) The absence of hanging vans for the delivery of meat, the carcasses, of necessity, being stacked one upon the other.
- (b) The inadequate arrangements at the Beccles Abattoir for dealing with 'peak kills'.

CONDEMNED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

419 lbs. home killed meat affected by bone taint were condemned during the year.

The following tinned and other foods were also condemned:-

Evaporated milk.	2	tins
Full cream milk	1	"
Condensed milk	1	"
Condensed machine skimmed milk	2	"
Plums	2	lbs. 8 ozs.
Strawberries		15 "
Australian fruits	1	" 14 "
Baked Beans		8 "
Group 1 Salmon		15 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Sardines		4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Corned beef	6	" 12 "
Pork Luncheon Meat	45	" 8 "
Ham	88	"
Ham loaf		12 "
Minced meat loaf		12 "
Stewed steak	2	"
Jellied veal	6	"

RODENT CONTROL.

The number of premises treated during the year by the Corporation's Rodent Operator was as follows:-

Business premises	3
Private dwellings	24
Corporation Property	1

Twelve manholes on the sewerage system were treated in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the treatment of sewers but only slight infestation was indicated.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS AND BAKERIES.

All premises have been found in a satisfactory condition.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

All sanitary requirements under the Factory Act have been complied with and proper fire precautions maintained.

DAIRIES AND RETAIL PURVEYORS OF MILK.

There are three retail purveyors of milk who trade in the town. One of these holds a supplementary licence granted by the Council to sell tuberculin tested and pasteurised milk and another dairyman has been granted a dealers licence to sell tuberculin tested milk.

Both dairies in the town have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Under this Act, which came into force on 10th November, 1951, it is unlawful to use rag flock or other specified material in any form of upholstery work, except on premises registered by the Local Authority. The Act also provides for the licensing by the Local Authority of premises used for the manufacture or storage of rag flock.

One application for registration of premises has been granted by the Corporation and two licences have been issued in respect of the storage of rag flock.

HOUSING.

One five-bedroomed terrace house has been purchased and two two-bedroomed semi-detached houses are being erected by the Corporation. The Corporation have also provided a new bathroom in one of their existing houses by means of a small interior conversion.

Generally, housing property in the Borough has been maintained in a sanitary condition and where defects have been found, appropriate action has been taken.

CARAVAN SITE.

The existing public conveniences have been enlarged to provide additional accommodation for both sexes.

C. R. DRIVER.

Sanitary Inspector.

October, 1952.

